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26 February 1969

COINS LOG

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1. There was no representative from the National

Indications Center. However, they are supposedly still on

the ~~point~~ verge of getting the equipment necessary to put them

into the COINS system.

2. Test results: [   ] of the Interface   **25X1**

Panel gave an analysis of the system tests held on the

week of the 10th - 14th February and the post mortem which

the Interface Panel held on this test last week. The only

days taken in detail were the 12th of February, the only

day when everyone was in the system, and the 13th which

was an alternate day for CIA. ~~None~~ One of the 6 CIA queries

on the 12th ~~appeared~~ received an answer back to CIA.

A chart of the queries is attached. There were ~~30~~ 23

interrogations on the 12th. Only ~~8~~ 7 were successful from

the start to finish. Generally speaking, only 26% of the overall

queries on COINS have been successfully completed. Yesterday

25X1 [   ] sent out 35 queries to DIA and got 5 answers.

He has still never been able to reach NSA. There are great

numbers of reasons for the query failures. Probably the

biggest difficulty was due to a lack of re-transmit

capability, both at the switch and with some of the problem

computers. DIA is presently debugging a re-transmit routine

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and hopes that all parts of the system will have a re-transmit

capability soon. As indicated on the chart, the switch lost

a considerable number of queries by sending the query to the

problem computer, not getting a receipt but sending it any-

how and therefore losing the query. CIA had some difficulty

with software. For instance, a left parens didn't transmit.

Sometimes they receipted queries then didn't transmit.

A break at NPIC appeared to the CIA computer as if the

entire system was down. Once NSA made a poor format to

a query and NPIC couldn't pick it up. Many of these

problems have since been corrected by changes in the software.

Generally speaking, NPIC looked the best in the test.

Only one query was lost during the test because CIA went

off the air at 10:00 A.M. Nevertheless, George would like

the Interface Panel to look into the possisility of building

a capability to hold a query overnight on the switch when

the system goes off the air.

One of the problems concerning the holding of queries

is that the switch can queue up to 10 interrogations only.

Originally they thought that once a user was notified that

one of the computers was off the air, they didn't send a

query to that computer. However, it has not worked out

that way. Users have been making queries and expecting the

switch to hold them until the other computer comes back on

the air, and the switch does not have enough capability for

this. Some interrogations to NSA were lost when the 494

would receipt the query but not forward the query to the 490.

NSA is also having other types of queueing problems. One

of the queue difficulties is that while the CIA system

occasionally gets the receipt, the out-terminals do not,

and the user does not know what happened to his query when it

does not return. According to It appears that CIA has every type of   **25X1**

problem -- software, hardware, timing, interface, communication -- **25X1**

all to be compounded when they switch over to the 360/67.

Installation of the 67 is still being held up by site   **25X1**

preparation, specifically air conditioning.

reported that where he had been originally told that CIA

would be off COINS for at least a week when CIA switches to

the 67, he is now told that that is not so. The reason why

there will not be a capability is because OCS will emulate

the 65 during the day and only test 67 programming at night.

However, CIA will need a major software re-write to clear up

the system difficulties. The programmers told Bob that will

take at least a month and they are hopeful that this will

take care of all the problems. He is not quite that hopeful.

The feeling was that the test and the post mortem were a

very valuable experience, so another test is being scheduled

for 10-14 March with an analysis of the test on the 17th.

    There will probably be another test from the 24-28th

of March.

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[BLANK] reported that the user log forms were a mess. People put as many as seven interrogations on one sheet and did just about everything wrong with the form that was possible to do. Many of the user logs were lost in the mail; the only ones he got for sure were the ones that were handcarried. The fact that many of the logs are codeword seemed to be responsible for the mail mix-up. So, the logs for the next test will all be handcarried to the next analysis meeting.

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It is obvious that the user log form will have to be redesigned. For example,/ there are boxes to fill in for unsuccessful queries, but none for successful ones. George

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will talk to [BLANK] this week about forms redesign and the overnight hold on the switching. [BLANK] thinks that the 27% reliability cam be raised to 50% if the switch gets a re-transmit capability.

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[BLANK] said that this will never do; the system will need 99% reliability or the user will clobber the system by not using it at all. George stated that the users are the only people who can force the machine people to improve the system.

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Dan's opinion was that they wouldn't pressure the machine people, they'll just not use the system.

3. <u>NSA Contract</u>. George had a conference last week with [ ] at DIA -- DIA no longer has any objection to NSA letting a contract for outside aid in some of the communications tasks on the COINS Master Plan. However, George will delay the contract until May or June.

4. <u>New Members of COINS</u>. George is now finishing a paper with ground rules for bringing in new members for the COINS system. He divides these new people into two groups: Suscribers and Contributors. Suscribers are those like State who presently have no files of their own to use in COINS and merely query the system. This paper is written obviously with Unified and Specified Commands in mind. There are some very interesting problems involved if any of these new members of COINS will be contributors because there are some problems to be overcome before we will be able to interrogate some of these distant files. At the top of list of these, of course, are security problems. (Tif does not understand all implied on this subject.)

5. <u>Standards</u>. The COINS sub-system managers had contributed written comments to George for his two papers setting up standards for COINS [ ] on dates. There were some disagreements on the record length [ ] DIA wanted 28 spaces, rather than 25 that George suggested, in order to bring COINS files into agreement with the new world-wide [ ] which DIA is trying to establish

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Master Plan.) In fact the typographical error _in the CMP_ " permit an

evaluate" instead of "an evaluation" was repeated in

25X1 ⬚ paper. His objectives again were "pretty long-rangy".

25X1 ⬚ pointed this out and the difficulty he would have in

getting CIA concurrence to any objectives that were not

zeroed in on the experiment alone. ⬚ agreed with ⬚ **25X1**

pointing out that the problem came about through the footnote

to the objectives in the COINS Master Plan, and the attention

the DIRNSA letter of transmittal drew to it. So ~~that~~ _they_ started

on Young's objectives again because George wanted some

agreement on a couple of objectives today. Everyone

agreed that Young's objective #2 is essentially the same

as the one in the COINS Master Plan. It was finally decided

that each manager would write up each of Bob's objectives

(1) a,b,c,d,e, &(2) with the "Measurement of Objective Achieve-

ment" & the "Determination of Success or Failure" as they

had done on their own #1 objective, and we'll meet next

week to discuss this.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, 5 March, at NPIC

at 10 a.m.

JOE:pw